Gap between demand and production of fertilizers

•159. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last three years there has been a gap between the production and the demand of fertilizers which had to be met by heavy imports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Fertilizers are imported to bridge the gap between the assessed requirement and indigenous availability; there -was progressive decline in the level of imports during the last three years;

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Demand, production gap and imports during the last three years:-

in lakh to ines of nutrients)

DEMAND (CONSUMPTION) (N+P+K)	YEAR	PRODUCTION (N+P)	GAP (N+P+K)	IMPORTS (N+P+K)	REMARKS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
84.74	1985-86	57.56	27.18	33.99	Including provision
87.38	1986-87	70.70	16.68	23.10	for pipeline stocks
90.11	1987-88	71.31	18.80	9.84	Imports were less on account of large carry forward stocks of Urea due to quantum jump in production coupled with successive droughts during the pre- ceding years.

Cultivation of Khejri Trees on Barrett Sand Dunes

*160. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the barren sand dupes could be turned productive by cultivating Propsopis Cinenaria commonly known as the Khejri tree; and